

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome

[Announcer] This program is presented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, or MERS, is a viral respiratory illness caused by Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus—MERS-CoV. Symptoms can range from mild to severe and can include fever, cough, shortness of breath, and acute respiratory illness, including pneumonia. Those infected can have gastrointestinal symptoms, including diarrhea, and kidney failure. MERS can cause death.

There is no vaccine or antiviral treatment recommended for MERS-CoV infection. So, to protect yourself and your family from respiratory illnesses, CDC recommends everyday preventive actions. Wash hands often; avoid close contact with people who appear sick; avoid touching the eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands; and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.

If you develop a fever and symptoms of respiratory illness, such as cough or shortness of breath, within 14 days after traveling to countries in or near the Arabian Peninsula, call your health care provider and mention your recent travel. While sick, stay home from work or school and delay future travel to reduce the possibility of spreading illness to others.

If you've had recent close contact with a traveler from the Arabian Peninsula who has fever and symptoms of respiratory illness, monitor your health for 14 days, starting from the day you were last exposed to the sick person. If you develop fever and symptoms of respiratory illness, you should call your health care provider and mention your recent contact. If you've had close contact with a confirmed or probable case of MERS, call your health care provider immediately.

If you would like more information about MERS, please visit CDC.gov/coronavirus/MERS.

[Announcer] For the most accurate health information, visit www.cdc.gov or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.